

my way home, stopping off at Meathop Moss to see the large heath, another very shy model.

The brown hairstreak was the third species exacting great length of time. Towards the end of August, three middle-day vigils beside a particular blackthorn thicket in a Dartmoor valley produced one unconfirmed report by one of the children, but next day a female came lazily round the lowly bushes in exactly the same spot, looking a beautiful orange in flight, and settled to lay a single egg selectively here and there before basking. How elusive and mysterious a butterfly! Her appearance completed the list of natural Lycaenidae in the one season, made possible by the late discovery of a pair of northern brown argus on 8th August, and the Satyridae had also been completed.

On the South Devonshire coast at Wembury on 27th August, a medium-sized fritillary came in from the sea during the hot afternoon, passing within a few feet of me. It flew low to the ground with a peculiar meandering zigzag flight, but although I pursued it for a distance, the insect did not settle. With the insect flying so low, probably any underside silver blobs would not have been apparent, but should any reader have experience of the Queen of Spain, and would care to comment one way or the other, that would be much appreciated.

The 1976 season drew to a close with the tally of species standing at fifty-four, excluding the chequered skipper and the last-mentioned butterfly. Six to do in 1977 — that seemed a relatively simple task. . . . !



BLASTOBASIS DECOLORELLA WOLLASTON (LEP.: BLASTOBASIDAE). — I was interested in Mr. P. A. Sokoloff's note regarding the unusual feeding of Wakely's Dowd. I first found *B. decolorella* in Suffolk at Aldeburgh in 1960 whilst collecting with Mr. Alasdair Aston. Since then I have found it commonly at Stowmarket and Walberswick. This year it was abundant in Dunwich Forest and many specimens of the moth were beaten out of various trees.

The late Mr. Stanley Wakely was surprised when I told him that it occurred at the end of December as well as earlier in the year.

With regard to the larval pabulum, I have bred it from rose hips and hawthorn berries so it would appear that it is polyphagous. — H. E. CHIPPERFIELD, The Shieling, Walberswick, Suffolk.

THE GREAT BROCADE (EUROIS OCCULTA L.) IN LANCASHIRE. — On the night of 23rd August I was very pleased to find two specimens of this moth here in my m.v. trap. They are pale grey in colour; one is a good specimen, but the other is slightly worn. There was a strong east wind blowing at the time, and for a week or more before, the wind was from the east. — J. G. WHITESIDE, Dover Farm, Blackburn Old Road, Hoghton, Near Preston, PR5 0SJ, 28.x.77.